Exploration of oil in Uttar Pradesh

2283. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities of underground Natural Oil in Deoria, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Azamgarh districts in eastern parts of UP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has conducted surveys in such areas and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether Government are making plan to start oil exploration work after conducting a survey of these areas and if so, the details of such schemes?;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have carried out exploration of oil and gas in Deoria, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Azamgarh districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh and acquired aeromagnetic, gravity, magnetic and 2D seismic data.

ONGC has been awarded two blocks *i.e.* GV-ONN-97/1 and GV-ONN-2000/1 under the first and second rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) respectively and had acquired 541 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D seismic data as on 1st January, 2005 in block, GV-ONN-97/1. Interpretation of data is in progress to identify drillable prospects. However, block GV-ONN-2000/1 has been relinquished by ONGC after acquiring 453 GLK of seismic data.

The Government of India have invited bids for one exploration block GV-ONN-2003/1 offered under the fifth round of NELP which falls in the districts of Deoria and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. The bid closing date for exploration blocks offered under the fifth round of NELP is 31 May, 2005.

LPG as an auto fuel

†2284. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have conducted any experiment to use LPG in vehicles as an alternative of petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that LPG can be used as fuel in vehicles; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to make its use in vehicles legal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) LPG is an established alternative and eco-friendly fuel for running vehicles. Government have already allowed the use of LPG as auto fuel in vehicles through LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001. In terms of this Order, the vehicle is to be fitted with a fixed auto LPG tank; replaceable cylinders being unsafe, are not permitted.

Hike in price of Gas

2285. DR.A.K. PATEL:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers in respect of Gas price hike; and

(b) by when the Central Government will decide on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Group of Ministers (GoM) has not yet made its recommendations to the Government in respect of any Gas price hike.

(b) Does not arise

Operations of duty free shops of ITDC at airports

2286. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making an effort to clean up the operations of all its duty free shops run by ITDC at airports and other places in the country;